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**STOWMARKET
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health,
1925.**

Special Survey Report (5 years)

STOWMARKET

PRINTED BY J. NEWBY, 45 IPSWICH STREET.

STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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TO THE
CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

STOWMARKET,

April, 1926.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report on the Health of Stowmarket for the year ending 31st December, 1925.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) 1033.

Population (Census 1921, 4240) estimated 1925, 4250.

Physical Features and General Character of the Area.

The sub-soil varies considerably, being clay, running sand and bog. The bog runs North and South of the town following the line of the river Gipping, which river forms the boundary between the Stowmarket Urban District and the East Stow Rural District. The lowest part of the town is 92 O.D., and the highest part is 152 O.D.

No. of inhabited houses (1921) 1092

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) 1112.

Rateable value—£17,988.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £65.

Social Conditions and Occupations of the Inhabitants.

The works in the town consist of Maltings, Leather Works and Iron Foundry. There are also large works on the boundary of the Urban District, i.e., Chemical Works, Nobel's Chemical Finishers, Ltd., Bulmer Rayon and Co's Silk Works, and Maltings.

THE AMOUNT OF POOR RELIEF for the Year ended March 31st, 1925.

Cost of institutional relief for Stow Union, including Stow-market Urban, East Stow and Thedwastre Rural Districts, £8,580.

Cost of Outdoor Relief for Union, £4,330.

Number of institutional Paupers chargeable to Union on January 1st, 1926, 123.

Number of Paupers in receipt of Outdoor (including Medical) Relief, 367.

Cost of Pauper Lunatics for year ended March 31st, 1925, £4,698.

Number of Lunatics on January 1st, 1926, 87.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		TOTAL.	M.	F.	
Births	Legitimate	70	30	40	} Birth Rate 17'64 per 1000.
	Illegitimate	5	2	3	
Deaths		68	40	28	Death Rate 16'0 per 1000.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of,

childbirth	from sepsis	...	Nil
	„ other causes		Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year:—Total 3 (Illegitimate Nil)

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1000 births:—

Legitimate 44'44. Illegitimate 0. Total 40'0.

For England and Wales in 1925:—

The Birth Rate was 18'3 per 1000.

The Death Rate was 12'2 per 1000.

The Infant Mortality Rate was 75 per 1000 births.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil

„ Whooping Cough (all age) Nil

Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) Nil

Unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment:—There were 5 deaths from Tuberculosis (all Pulmonary and Males), 8 deaths from Cancer, 7 from Cerebral Hæmorrhage, 4 from Heart Disease, 6 from Influenza and 16 from Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases.

An epidemic of Influenza started towards the end of February, increased in March and abated early in April, for the most part mild in type, although there were a few severe cases.

An epidemic of Measles started also in February, rather a severe type and complicated by Pneumonia in a few cases.

A spell of severe weather starting in November caused a good deal of illness, lung trouble, &c., with deaths of aged people, also several cases of Influenza.

The combination of these circumstances has accounted for a high death rate this year, although there have been periods with very little illness.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals.

(1) Hospital for Tuberculosis is provided by the County Council (Normaston).

(2 & 3) There is no special Maternity or Children's Hospital.

(4) There is an **Isolation Hospital** with 22 beds which serves three districts:—the Stowmarket Urban, East Stow Rural and Thedwastre Rural Districts. This Hospital is now owned jointly by the three districts concerned and is managed by a Joint Hospital Committee.

A new Isolation Block with two main wards and two observation wards (12 beds in all) was built in 1924, and commenced to be occupied at the beginning of 1925.

During the year 70 cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted into this block, and it is difficult to conceive what we should have done without this building.

Altogether 70 cases of Scarlet Fever and 24 cases of Diphtheria were admitted during the year with no deaths from Scarlet Fever, but 3 deaths from Diphtheria. These latter were admitted in an almost hopeless condition.

Cases admitted:—

		Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.
From Stowmarket Urban District	...	31	—
„ East Stow Rural District	...	30	12
„ Thedwastre Rural District	...	9	12
		<hr/> 70	<hr/> 24

There is a need to replace the old part of the Hospital which now serves as an Administration block and a Diphtheria block by two new up-to-date blocks, whenever the expense can be borne, but this is out of the question at present.

(5) Smallpox is provided for by special arrangement with Ipswich.

(6) Ordinary Hospital cases are well served by the East Suffolk and Ipswich General Hospital.

There is no Cottage Hospital in the district.

Any Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.

Unmarried mothers are, when destitute, received into the Workhouse Infirmary save a few sent to special outside Institutions with the aid of the Guardians of the Union. Illegitimate infants are also received into the Workhouse, or Children's Home of the Union in Stowmarket and some boarded out. Homeless Children the same.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For infectious cases:—Horse ambulance. It is most important that we should have a Motor Ambulance for the infectious cases, it would prevent a lot of suffering to patients on long journeys, and prevent a great waste of time for nurses and driver.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases:—Motor ambulances from Ipswich.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Child Welfare Centre which started in January 1919, and was most successful for the first four years, has quite recently been given up by order of the County Council, I understand on account of poor attendance and lack of interest, although I have received no notification of the fact from the County Authorities. A Health Visitor is still employed in visiting the infants in their homes.

The Clinic for Venereal Diseases is held at the East Suffolk Hospital, Ipswich.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

One part-time Medical Officer of Health and one whole-time Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) General:—There are two District Nurses for general nursing. The arrangements for the same are carried out by the Stowmarket Nursing Association affiliated with the Suffolk Nursing Association. The financial support is obtained from private subscriptions and small fees. The County Council gives a small grant and the Guardians subscribe £3. 3. annually.

(b) For Infectious Diseases, i.e., measles, etc. A Health Visitor can be obtained temporarily from Ipswich provided by the County Council.

Midwives.

There are no Midwives employed or subsidised by the Public Health Authority, except two Midwives on the Staff of the Work-house Infirmary.

There are two Midwives practising in the district, one privately and another employed by the Medical Practitioners in the district.

CHEMICAL WORK.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are provided by the County Council at Ipswich; this service is freely used by the Medical Practitioners in the district and regularly by the Isolation Hospital.

Diphtheria antitoxin is provided by the Local Authority.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Local Acts :—Nil

Special Local Orders :—Nil.

General Adoptive Acts and Byelaws relating to Public Health in force in the area :—

March 7th, 1921, Public Health Acts, Amendment Act 1907, parts 2 and 3.

December 10th, 1925, Byelaws with respect to New Streets and Buildings.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**Water.**

The Council purchased the Waterworks from Messrs. Greene, King & Son in 1921.

Considerable improvements have been made to the works during the last four years. The two 12in. bores which supply the town and part of Stowupland have been deepened from 171ft. and 158ft. to 238ft. which insures an abundant supply of water for the Town. The water has been improved by the systematic flushing of the filters and mains to reduce the iron. The process undergone by the water is as follows :—it is pumped from the two boreholes to the softening plant, calcium of lime is injected into the water by a small pump, the water and lime then flow into the bottom of a large closed cylinder. In half an hour the water reaches the top in its journey losing the greater portion of the iron, and its hardness which falls as sludge. It is now partially treated and flows into a battery of Candy Compound Pressure Filters upon the Oxidizing and Aerating System. The water

enters at the top of the Filters, and after being sprayed through compressed Air passes first through the patent pre-filters constructed in the upper portion of the filters, which retain a large proportion of the suspended matter, consisting of chalk and iron, and finally through the fine filtering bed, constructed in the lower portion of the Filter.

The hardness dropped from 25 deg. to between 10 and 12 deg.

The Reservoir has a capacity of 200,000 gallons, the water level is now recorded at the Pumping Station by an electrical Recording instrument which ensures that the proper head is being maintained to reach the high levels. A stand pipe has recently been erected to increase the pressure in the mains.

During the last four years the water mains have been extended in various parts of the Town for a length of 900 yards.

All the dwelling-houses are supplied direct from the mains.

Number of houses supplied 1085.

Out of a population of 4,230 persons:—4,070 are supplied.

Total number of houses 1925—1,117.

Rivers and Streams.

The portion of the river Gipping which flows through the lower part of the Town was thoroughly cleaned out from end to end in 1925, and is not suffering pollution from any effluents.

Drainage and Sewerage.

From 1922 to 1925 the Council spent £15,846 in the re-construction of sewers which were very defective, being butt pipe and 4½ brick.

The system was also duplicated for surface water and sewage.

The following streets which have been reported on for several years past have been re-constructed with glazed socketted pipes:—

- Ipswich Street
- Bury Street
- Violet Hill
- Violet Hill Road
- Childer Road
- Finborough Road
- Tavern Street
- Church Lane
- Union Street
- Crown Street

The whole of the sewage from Stowmarket, Stowupland and Combs is pumped up on to the Sewage Farm through upward rough screening filters, thence it flows on to the land 30 acres in extent, and after being finally treated discharges into the River Gipping.

The Farm is governed by a Joint Committee of the Stowmarket Urban and East Stow Rural District Councils. The sludge is buried in dug trenches.

The effluent is discharged clean and bright.

Closet Accommodation.

Privies, fixed receptacles—1.

Earth Closets—4.

Pail Closets—24.

Water Closets with or without flushing apparatus—1,341.

45 Water Closets have been provided with flushing apparatus originally hand flushed.

12 Privies have been done away with during the last four years and new water closets constructed.

Scavenging.

Owing to the refuse tip being nearly filled up, the Council has under consideration this year the disposal of the refuse. The refuse is removed twice a week. 1140 tons were disposed of during the year.

No fixed ashpits.

The receptacles used for refuse and placed on the pavements are generally of a very insanitary type, mostly boxes, pails and baths.

Only one cesspool and two earth closets cleansed in the area.

Sanitary Inspection :—

Total number of inspections—560.

Number of premises visited—122.

Statutory notices served—17.

Complied—7.

Informal Notices—15.

Complied—14.

Factories—13.

Workshops—53.

FOOD.

Cow-sheds.

Three in the district. All well kept with the exception of one which is now properly limewashed—14 inspections.

Bake Houses.

Nine in the district, they have been well kept—36 inspections.

Schools.

Two public Elementary and Secondary Schools, have been built during the last few years. One School has been altered and improved and all Schools are well drained and provided with an adequate supply of water.

HOUSING.

1.—General Housing Conditions.

- (1) There is a considerable shortage of houses, which prevents satisfactory dealing with many condemned houses and many overcrowded houses.

Nearly all our cases of Tuberculosis occur in these overcrowded, damp or badly lighted and badly ventilated houses. It is imperative that this should be remedied ; most of these cases of Tuberculosis are preventable.

In connection with this subject I insert an extract from the minutes of the Council Meeting held September 5th, 1919—

“A letter was read from the Commissioner, who, attended at Stowmarket and inspected the houses previously reported on as unfit for human habitation by the Public Health Committee wherein he recommended the immediate closing of the undermentioned houses :—

Church Lane, Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.

Church Walk, No. 27.

Regent Street, Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11.

Union Street, Nos. 14, 16, 88, 90, and 92.

Crowe Street, Nos. 16 and 18.

Stowupland Street, Nos. 59 and 61,

and that the Council should purchase 10 Army Huts for the purpose of housing the families in these houses.

The Housing Committee reported that they had considered this letter and agreed to purchase 10 huts and convert them into 20 dwellings as recommended by the Commissioner.

It was resolved to confirm the action of the Housing Committee.”

Two of the said houses have been closed since but the others are still occupied.

Houses erected since the war to year ending 1925—

Under 1919 Act	...	...	34
„ 1923	„	...	11
„ 1924	„	...	Nil
Private Enterprise	...		29
			—
			74
			—

Eighteen houses have been approved for the Subsidy, 11 completed, 7 in course of erection.

- (2) (a) At least 60 houses are required.
- (b) Building of houses is under consideration.
- (3) The new Silk Works is bringing many people into the district and accentuating the Housing Shortage.

2.—Overcrowding.

- (1) Extent : 17 cases, 1 abated.
- (2) Causes : shortage of houses.
- (3) No action. Building of houses under consideration.
- (4) Principal cases of overcrowding during the year 1925 :
 - 125, Lime Tree Place, 2 bedrooms, 4 persons in one bedroom, 805 c.f.
 - 7, Spring Row, 2 bedrooms, 5 persons sleep in one bedroom, 970 c.f.
 - 74, Regent Street, 2 bedrooms, 4 persons sleep in one bedroom, 600 c.f.
 - 95, Bridge Street, one bedroom, 5 persons, ages 19, 15, 8, 5, 4.
 - 35, Bond Street, 2 bedrooms, 6 persons, 1 bedroom.
 - 9, Spring Row, 2 bedrooms, 7 persons.
 - 27, Regent Street, 2 bedrooms, 10 in house, males 3, 9, 18, 17, 14. Females, 13, 11, 8. Father and mother, 5 in each room.
 - 1, Bury Road, 9 persons in 2 bedrooms. 3 persons 520 c.f., 6 persons, 812 c.f.
 - 88, Union Street, 2 bedrooms, 14 persons, 8 in one bedroom, 6 in another. Males, 48, 27, 21, 15, 13, 7. 825 c.f.
 - 16, Crowe Street, 2 persons in one bedroom, no ventilation.
 - 76, Bury Street, 3 persons sleep in one bedroom, 770 c.f.
 - 90, Union Street, 5 persons sleep in one room.
 - 65, Ipswich Street, 10 persons, 4 bedrooms.
 - 3, Pound Lane, 7 persons, 2 bedrooms.
 - 64, Bury Street, 2 bedrooms, 4 persons in 1 bedroom.
 - 13, Church Walk, 2 bedrooms, 7 persons.
 - 9, Gostling's Square, 6 persons, 1 bedroom.

In all the above cases, reported, scarlet fever, tuberculosis, pneumonia have occurred in the houses.

3—Fitness of Houses.

- (1) (a) General standard of housing in the area :
Majority fairly good but several still very bad.
- (b) General character of the defects found. Unfit houses.
Damp low ceiling, bad repair, cannot be re-constructed.
- (2) General Action taken as regards unfit houses under—
(a) The Public Health Acts : No Action.
(b) Housing Acts : No Action.
- (3) The difficulties found in remedying unfit houses—These houses cannot be made fit for habitation owing to the general construction, and are only fit to be pulled down, but the shortage of houses prevents this.
- (4) Water supply, closet accommodation, and refuse disposal so far as they affect houses are quite satisfactory.

Byelaws. New Byelaws for New Streets and Buildings were approved by the Ministry of Health on 10th December, 1925.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1925.

Number of new house erected during the year :—

- (a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b), 15.
- (b) With state assistance under the Housing Acts : 7.
 - (i) By the Local Authority : Nil.
 - (ii) By other bodies or persons : 8.

- (1) Unfit dwelling houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), 115.

- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, 30.

- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious as to be unfit for human habitation, 7.

- (4) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, 6.

- (2) Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers, Nil.

(3) Action under Statutory Powers.

A—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, 1.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices, Nil.

(a) By owners, Nil. in default of owners.

(b) By Local Authority, Nil.

- (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close, 1.

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, 91.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.

(a) By owners, 60.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners, Nil.

C—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders, Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made, Nil.
- (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit, Nil.
- (4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made, Nil.
- (5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Inspection and supervision of milk supply is undertaken by the County Council.

The premises are satisfactory, as already reported.

(b) Meat.

Under the Meat Regulations, 1924, inspections are made during slaughter. 195 pigs, 55 bullocks, 54 sheep have been examined.

The shops comply with the order.

No Public Slaughter Houses.

Private Slaughter Houses:—

	In 1920.	In January 1925.	In December 1925.
Registered ...	2	2	2
Licensed ...	5	4	4
	—	—	—
Total ...	7	6	6
	—	—	—

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The most satisfactory point in surveying the prevalence of Infectious Diseases since 1920 is with regard to Diphtheria, this disease which has been more or less prevalent in Stowmarket for many years, especially in 1915 and 1916, and even as late as 1921 (13 cases), has at any rate for the time being, decreased to vanishing point, the last case notified was 1 case in 1922, the last three years being quite free.

This absence of Diphtheria has coincided with the action of doing away with the last 12 privies during the last four years. One cannot prove the connection between these two facts, but it is significant, and though it is generally considered the disease is spread by a “carrier,” it is quite possible that the bacillus requires some other condition for its virulence.

Scarlet Fever on the other hand, has become much more prevalent during the last five years, and has caused some anxiety in dealing with isolation, prevention, tracing source, watching contacts, etc. The main reason of its spread has been the mild type of the disease, so mild in many cases that parents could not be blamed for treating it lightly, and consequently several cases have been discovered only when desquamation had begun.

The School Medical Officer and School Teachers have always assisted me in every way and most willingly carried out any suggestion.

Disease.					Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-Pox	...	...	...	...	Nil	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	31	31	Nil
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	Nil	—	—
Para-typhoid	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	Nil	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	20	—	3
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age-Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...						
1	...	...						
5	...	...						
10	...	...			1					
15	...	...		2	1					
20	...	...	1			1				
25	...	...						
35	...	...						
45	...	...	1							
55	...	...				1				
65 and upwards.										
Totals	...		2	2	2	2	5			

78 Union Street. Defects, ventilation, lavatories no flush. Defects remedied.

1 Bury Road. 9 persons sleep in 2 bedrooms, 2 sleep in same room as the patient. 3 persons 1 bedroom 520 c.f., 6 persons 1 bedroom 820 c.f. House damp and ventilation not sufficient. No action.

87 Violet Hill. No defects.

17 Childer Road. No defects.

47 Lime Tree Place. Front and back room, external wall damp to be remedied.

88 Union Street. 14 persons 2 bedrooms, 7 sleep in same room as the patient. Ages 48, 27, 21, 15, 13, 7, room 825 c.f. sleep in second bedroom.

76 Bury Street. Overcrowded and badly ventilated, father and mother sleep in same room as the patient. Defects to be remedied. No action for overcrowding.

5 Stowupland Street. Ventilation of living room.

6 Unity Road. No defects.

SCARLET FEVER.

- 26 Childer Road. Defects, brick floor scullery insanitary, sink defective, walls out of repair. Watercloset hand flushed, walls damp, paving of yard defective. All defects to be remedied with the exception of concreting brick floor and yard.
- 9 Spring Row. House overcrowded, 1 bedroom not fit to sleep in.
- 65 Ipswich Street. Overcrowded, no action.
- 64 Cardinalls Road. No defects.
- 20 Regent Street. Not sufficient ventilation. Work to be done.
- 17 Stricklands Road. No defects.
- 14 Violet Hill. Damp wall and defective gully trap. Defects remedied.
- 125 Lime Tree Place. Overcrowded, abated.
- 22 Bond Street. New sink, floor defective. Defects remedied.
- 7 Spring Row. Overcrowded, 5 persons sleep in 1 bedroom. No action. 1 bedroom not fit to sleep in.
- 64 Bury Street. House overcrowded, condemned. No action.
- 50 Cardinalls Road. Brick floors direct on to the soil. No action.
- 6 Bond Street. Floors damp, floor concreted.
- 96 Bridge Street. Overcrowded. No action.
- 13 Church Walk. House overcrowded. No action. Defects, floor damp and walls out of repair. Defects remedied.
- 71 Regent Street. Walls damp to be remedied.
- 76 Union Street. No defects.
- 9 Spring Row. Overcrowded. No action. 1 bedroom not fit to sleep in.
- 68 Regent Street. No defects.
- 5 Church Walk. Ventilation bad. No action.
- 51 Cardinalls Road. No defects.
- 37 Bridge Street. Overcrowded. No action.
- 30 Childer Road. No defects.
- 16 Crowe Street. Overcrowded, house damp, 1 bedroom used no ventilation. House condemned as totally unfit for human habitation. No action.
- 94 Regent Street. Outbuilding out of repair, 1 floor defective, building to be reconstructed and floor concreted.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

An Infant Welfare Centre was opened in January 1919, and was carried on for six years, apparently doing a considerable amount of good. This has quite recently been given up by order of the County Council.

There is no Clinic for expectant mothers.

There is no special maternity home or hospital; if for any reason a case cannot be treated at home, it can under certain circumstances be taken into the Local Infirmary, or into the East Suffolk Hospital.

There have only been 2 cases of Puerperal Fever in the last 5 years (1 in 1922 and 1 in 1923).

There has only been 1 case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum in the last 5 years, i.e., 1 in 1923.

There have been the usual epidemics of Measles, but no death since 1921 from this cause.

Very little epidemic Diarrhoea.

Ophthalmic Neonatorum in 1925 — Nil.

Summary and General Survey.

The water supply has been much improved both in pressure and quality and is a very safe and satisfactory supply.

The sewerage scheme contemplated has been completed. All privies in the town itself have been done away with. There has been no case of Diphtheria since Sept. 1922. Scavenging and refuse disposal are satisfactory, except the receptacles for same.

Food inspection is satisfactory, but still not enough provision is made to prevent contamination by flies, dust, &c., and handling by purchasers.

The Isolation Hospital has been greatly improved and brought up-to-date in many ways, although more is needed when funds will allow.

The schools are quite satisfactory.

Deaths from Cancer average about 7 a year for the last five years; notwithstanding all the talk about "Cures for Cancer," at present the only hope is early removal by the Surgeon, and consequently early diagnosis, therefore the public should be urged to seek advice as early as possible.

The importance of isolating influenza is not sufficiently appreciated, people not free from infection constantly travel in trains and other public vehicles, visit one another in their houses, and do not attempt isolation or ventilation in their homes. Most of our epidemics are traced to infection by people coming home at holiday times.

The one real blot on the Town is the need for more housing accommodation and this is the main urgent matter which requires immediate attention. The difficulty is likely to increase rapidly on account of new works in the district bringing in numbers of fresh employees.

Our overcrowded and damp houses are hot-beds for Tuberculosis.

Knowing as I do what a difficult problem the Housing one is, and that you have already given it your earnest consideration, I feel diffident in pressing this point, but nevertheless feel it my duty to reiterate that I consider it is the most urgent and pressing question which now demands your attention for the sake of the future welfare of this Town.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for the consideration they have always shown me, the Public Health Committee for their very useful support, and the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for his General Sanitary Report and active assistance throughout the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. C. HOUNSFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR LAST 11 YEARS.

Year	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Pneu- monia.	Enteric Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Tuber- culosis.
1915	20	11	—	1	2	7
1916	25	2	—	—	—	8
1917	3	11	—	—	—	9
1918	3	5	—	—	1	16
1919	10	1	11	—	—	6
1920	8	1	2	—	—	7
1921	13	31	—	1	—	5
1922	1	14	6	—	1	5
1923	—	5	4	3	—	14
1924	—	27	4	—	—	16
1925	—	31	20	—	—	8

TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR LAST 11 YEARS.

Year	Birth-Rate.		Death-Rate		Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 Births.	
	Stowmarket	England and Wales	Stowmarket	England and Wales	Stowmarket	England and Wales
1915	24'4		19'3		114'0	
1916	19'1		12'0		88'8	
1917	18'5		12'17		45'45	
1918	21'39		16'82		85'1	
1919	18'4	18'5	13'27	13'8	12'82	89'0
1920	23'17	25'4	8'04	12'4	20'41	80'0
1921	17'9		11'08		52'06	
1922	19'01	20'6	14'31	12'9	61'72	77'0
1923	16'22	19'7	12'23	11'6	72'46	69'0
1924	17'1	18'8	12'88	12'2	68'49	75'0
1925	17.64	18'3	16'0	12'2	40'0	75'0

